

Minnkota Power Cooperative Inc; GlobalData - Events

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Minnkota Power Cooperative Inc
1822 Mill Road
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United States

Events

Minnkota, NextEra Energy Resources announce wind farm plans

May 23, 2016

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc., an MREA member, is a generation and transmission cooperative headquartered in Grand Forks, N.D. They announced in April, an agreement with an affiliate of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC, to purchase renewable energy from an expansion of the Oliver County Wind Energy Center located near Center, N.D. NextEra Energy Resources is developing the wind farm addition, which is expected to begin operation in early 2017. All of the energy production from the 100-megawatt (MW) addition, referred to as the Oliver III project, will be sold to Minnkota under a 35-year Purchase Power Agreement (PPA). The project will approximately double the size of the Oliver County Wind Energy Center by utilizing an estimated 44 General Electric (GE) wind turbines, each having a nameplate capacity of 2.3 MW. Minnkota and NextEra Energy Resources have a longstanding and mutually beneficial business partnership that has helped to greatly expand wind generation in North Dakota. In addition to the Oliver III project, Minnkota has PPAs in place with affiliates of NextEra Energy Resources for 357 MW of wind power from the Langdon and Ashtabula Wind Energy Centers on the eastern side of the state. "Minnkota has been at the forefront of renewable energy development in North Dakota," said Mac McLennan, Minnkota president & CEO. "By early 2017, nearly 35 percent of Minnkota's electric generation capacity will come from wind - one of the highest percentages of any electric cooperative in the United States." The Oliver III wind farm will help Minnkota make progress toward compliance with an anticipated federal regulation to reduce carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from existing power plants. Minnkota opposes the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan, which currently requires a 45 percent rate-based CO2 reduction from North Dakota's coal-based plants by 2030. The rule has been temporarily suspended by the U.S. Supreme Court until related litigation has concluded. "Although the Clean Power Plan has an uncertain path forward in the court system, we understand that CO2 emissions could be subject to regulation in the future," McLennan said. "At the same time, the wind Production Tax Credit is scheduled to be phased down over the next five years, which has the potential to significantly impact future wind pricing." The Oliver III wind farm will be strategically located near the Minnkota-operated Milton R. Young Station, a coal-based power plant that serves as the cooperative's primary source of generation. This will allow Minnkota to use its recently constructed Center to Grand Forks 345,000-volt transmission line to efficiently deliver both coal and wind energy to its members in eastern

North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota. Not having to construct major infrastructure specifically to transmit power from the wind site provides significant savings. Minnkota supplies wholesale electricity to 11 member-owner distribution cooperatives with eight in Minnesota. They serve a 34,500-square-mile area. Minnkota is also operating agent for the Northern Municipal Power Agency (NMPA), which serves 12 municipal utilities in the same geographic region. Together, the Minnkota/NMPA Joint System serves more than 147,000 consumer accounts.

Minnkota to purchase 100MW from NextEra Energy's Oliver County wind farm

Apr 21, 2016

Minnkota Power Cooperative Inc. will purchase 100MW of power from a wind farm in Oliver County, which is being extended by NextEra Energy Resources, LLC. However, the extended windfarm is likely to be operational in early 2017. The entire power generated from the extended wind farm will be sold to Minnkota under a 35-year agreement. The expansion of Oliver County Wind Energy Center will consist of 44 wind turbines, each with a capacity of 2.3MW. The turbines will be supplied by General Electric Company. Minnkota CEO Mac McLennan said, "By early 2017, nearly 35 percent of Minnkota's electric generation capacity will come from wind -- one of the highest percentages of any electric cooperative in the United States." The company said the wind farm expansion will assist Minnkota to move towards the federal government's target to decrease carbon dioxide emissions.

OSI Selected by a Joint Utility Group to Deliver 7 SCADA/EMS Systems for 7 Operating Companies

Dec 17, 2014

Open Systems International, Inc. (OSI) has been awarded seven contracts by a Joint Utility Procurement (JUP) project to deliver seven SCADA/EMS systems. JUP members include: Gainesville Regional Utilities, FloridaLakeland Electric, FloridaMemphis Light, Gas & Water, TennesseeMinnkota Power Cooperative, Inc., North DakotaSouth Mississippi Electric Power Association, MississippiCity of Tallahassee, Floridaand Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative, Inc., Michigan. The JUP group has been a voluntary membership program since the mid-1990s, between a group of utilities that wanted to collaborate on procurement and support of their SCADA/EMS systems. The utilities achieve economies of scale savings in the procurement, implementation and support costs as well as collaborative relationship between parties to assist in the long-term support of these systems. The utilities leverage not only the buying power of the combined utilities but also coordinate periodic system upgrades to ensure they stay current with the latest technology. The seven new SCADA/EMS systems are based on OSI's monarch (Multi-platform Open Network ARCHitecture) platform and include OSI's next-generation, .NET based Graphical User Interface, SCADA, Historian and Generation Management and Transmission Management applications. "We are very excited and pleased to have the JUP group's trust in OSI and our technology and we welcome this group to our family of users. We are confident that this project will be of an exemplary execution and will be delivered on schedule and within budget," said Bahman Hoveida, President & CEO of OSI. "From the viewpoint of current ability, business and personal relations and future enhancements, we have found OSI to be everything we expected and more. This decision was made with a great deal of research and investigation and in the end, we found OSI to be more than a product. We found each individual to be part of a talented and dedicated family who have produced a system with which they take personal pride and ownership. It is an honor to be associated with such," said Tommy Clark, Director of Computer and Control Systems at South Mississippi Electric Power Association. About

JUP Members: Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU), is a multi-service utility owned by the City of Gainesville and is the 5th largest municipal electric utility in Florida. GRU serves approximately 93,000 retail and wholesale customers in Gainesville and surrounding areas, offering electric, natural gas, water, wastewater and telecommunications services. www.gru.com Lakeland Electric is a full service municipal utility, servicing over 120,000 customers with some of the most economically priced electricity in the state of Florida. Lakeland Electric is the third largest publicly owned utility in Florida and was one of the first to offer power in the Sunshine State over 110 years ago. www.lakelandelectric.com Memphis Light, Gas & Water (MLGW) is the nation's largest three-service municipal utility, serving nearly 421,000 customers. Since 1939, MLGW has met the utility needs of Memphis and Shelby County residents by delivering reliable and affordable electricity, natural gas and water service. www.mlgw.com Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (MPC) is a regional generation and transmission cooperative serving 11 member-owner distribution cooperatives. Minnkota's service area of 34,500 square miles is located in eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota. Through its generation resources, Minnkota has some of the most competitive wholesale electrical rates in the country. www.minnkota.com The City of Tallahassee is committed to enriching the quality of life in Tallahassee by providing clean and reliable electric service to their customers through a professional and diverse workforce that is committed to safe, responsible, cost effective and customer-focused operations. They are a vertically integrated electric utility with generation, transmission and distribution operations. As the 4th largest municipal electric utility in Florida and the 22nd largest in the United States (of over 2,000), their 295 employees are dedicated to meeting the electric service needs of their customers. www.talgov.com South Mississippi Electric Power Association (SMEPA) is a Generation and Transmission cooperative that has been in business for more than 40 years. SMEPA began by meeting the wholesale power requirements of seven small electric power associations. SMEPA provides reliable, economical electric power for more than 412,000 homes and businesses served by their eleven Member systems. www.smepa.coop Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative, Inc. (WPSC) is a generation and transmission electric cooperative headquartered in Cadillac, Michigan. Wolverine is owned by and supplies wholesale electric power to seven members: Cherryland Electric Cooperative, Great Lakes Energy, HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Midwest Energy Cooperative, Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op, Spartan Renewable Energy and Wolverine Power Marketing Cooperative. Wolverine members have served rural portions of Michigan's Lower Peninsula for nearly 70 years and today, they provide electricity to more than 260,000 homes, farms and businesses. www.wpsci.com OSI (www.osii.com) provides open, state-of-the-art and high-performance automation solutions to utilities worldwide. These solutions include Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems, Network Management Systems (NMS), Energy Management Systems (EMS), Distribution Management Systems (DMS), Outage Management Systems (OMS), Generation Management Systems (GMS), Substation Automation systems (SA) Data Warehousing and Historians, as well as individual software and hardware products and Smart Grid solutions for utility operations. OSI is headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. For additional information regarding this news release please contact news@osii.com.

USDA Announces Funding For Projects To Boost Rural Electric Grid Efficiency And Reliability

Jun 12, 2013

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced funding for rural electric projects in 16 states to provide reliable, affordable electricity for rural residents, including improved service for native Americans. Tom Vilsack, secretary of USDA, said, "USDA funding for rural electric utilities not only improves service to customers, it makes the grid more efficient and reliable and encourage investment,

business development and job creation in rural communities."USDA's support for rural electric utilities benefits more than 8.5 million rural electric consumers annually. Smart grid technology further increases the efficiency and reliability of the rural electric system. Since 2011, rural electric cooperatives have used USDA funding to invest nearly \$560m in smart grid improvements. This announcement includes more than \$356m in loans to upgrade rural electric services, including more than \$15m in smart grid funding. The funding will help finance the construction of more than 2,400 miles of new or improved electric line. One of the utilities that will receive funding is Western Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc. It was selected to receive an \$82.4m guaranteed loan to build or improve 78 miles of transmission line, two substations, and make other system improvements. Additionally, the loan includes \$4.5m for smart grid projects. The funding will benefit customers in Oklahoma, Kansas, New Mexico and Texas. Projects planned by Beltrami Electric Cooperative Association in Minnesota, Butte Electric Cooperative, Inc. in South Dakota and Benton Rural Electric Association in Washington include funding for electric service improvements in native American communities. The following is a complete list of rural electric utilities that will receive USDA funding, contingent upon the recipient meeting the terms of the loan agreement. Arkansas and Louisiana Ashley-Chicot Electric Cooperative, Inc. â€“ \$6.9m: Funds will be used to serve 569 customers, build 83 miles of distribution line and make other system improvements. Florida Sumter Electric Cooperative, Inc. â€“ \$30m: Funds will be used to serve 3,400 customers, build 209 miles of distribution line and make other system improvements. Georgia Flint Electric Membership Corporation â€“ \$48.3m: Funds will be used to serve 4,757 customers, build 438 miles of distribution line and make other system improvements. Irwin Electric Membership Corporation â€“ \$25m: Funds will be used to serve 1,693 customers, build 581 miles of distribution line and make other system improvements. Indiana Dubois Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. â€“ \$4,000,000: Funds will be used to serve 600 customers, build 100 miles of distribution line and make other system improvements. The loan includes \$121,800 for smart grid projects. Iowa Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative â€“ \$2.5m: Funds will be used to serve 48 customers, build 15 miles of distribution line and make other system improvements. The loan includes \$20,000 for smart grid projects. Kentucky Fleming-Mason Energy Cooperative, Inc. â€“ \$12.38m: Funds will be used to serve 1,100 customers, build 249 miles of distribution line and make other system improvements. The loan includes \$2.33m for smart grid projects. Minnesota Beltrami Electric Cooperative, Inc. â€“ \$23.07m: Funds will be used to serve 1,262 customers, build 154 miles of distribution line and make other system improvements. The loan includes \$1,154, 611 for smart grid projects and \$5,753,582 for improved service to native American communities. The Cooperative Light & Power Association of Lake County â€“ \$7.72m: Funds will be used to serve 357 customers, build 77 miles of distribution line and make other system improvements. The loan includes \$1,170,750 for smart grid projects. Redwood Electric Cooperative â€“ \$6m: Funds will be used to serve 81 customers, build 49 miles of distribution line and make other system improvements. The loan amount includes \$38,000 for smart grid projects. North Carolina South River Electric Membership Corporation â€“ \$30m: Funds will be used to serve 3,754 customers, build 335 miles of distribution line and make other system improvements. The loan includes \$300,000 for smart grid projects. North Dakota and Minnesota Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. â€“ \$54.52m: Funds will be used to build 104 miles of transmission line, a new substation, nine switching stations and make other system improvements. The loan includes \$4.68m for smart grid projects. Oklahoma, Kansas, New Mexico and Texas Western Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc. â€“ \$82.44m: Funds will be used to build and improve 78 miles of transmission line, two new substations and make other system improvements. The loan includes \$4.56m for smart grid projects. South Dakota Butte Electric Cooperative â€“ \$14.74m: Funds will be used to serve 665 customers, build 82 miles of distribution line and make other system improvements. The loan includes \$879,535 for smart grid projects and \$329,000 for service to 118 Native Americans. Washington Benton

Rural Electric Association â€“ \$9.3m: Funds will be used to serve 626 customers, build 19 miles of distribution line and make other system improvements. The loan includes \$216,000 for service to 350 native Americans.

Aconex Selected By Minnkota Power To Support Centerâ€“Grand Forks Transmission Line Project

Jan 22, 2013

Aconex Ltd. was selected by Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (Minnkota Power) to support the Center to Grand Forks (CGF) project, which involves the construction of a 250-mile high-voltage transmission line from central North Dakota to Grand Forks. The Aconex online collaboration platform was chosen to help manage, track and share massive amounts of files and data among both internal and external team members in diverse locations. Now under construction, the CGF Project will meet Minnkota Power's obligations as a transmission services provider for grid reliability and address a long-standing need to increase voltage support in the northern Red River Valley region. Mike Hennes, CGF project manager at Minnkota Power, said, This new transmission line will meet the long-term power load requirements of a steadily growing region and improve reliability for our customers. The five-year project is both large and complex, with aggressive deadlines. Aconex will help us stay on schedule with real-time, centralized access to all project documentation, which will improve the flow of information and enable faster decision making. Prior to implementing Aconex, internal Minnkota Power project team members and various external contractors and consultants maintained files on different systems and FTP sites with different naming conventions. Transferring large documents was time-consuming and labor-intensive. It was difficult to ensure that the information needed by every individual on the project was visible, up to date, accurate, and available on a timely basis. With Aconex, every document is now readily available to every project team member on the same centralized platform, and a consistent naming convention makes document search faster and easier. When the project is closed out, all historical documents will already be on file for transfer to Minnkota Power's internal document management systems, saving considerable time and money. Frank Kopas, general manager of North America at Aconex, said, As illustrated by Minnkota, any large power infrastructure project can benefit from the Aconex collaboration platform. It enables all team members to instantly and effectively access, distribute, track, and archive project information using one secure, neutral system.

ADA-ES' CyClean Technology To Reduce Young Station Emissions

Oct 16, 2012

ADA-ES, Inc. and Minnkota Power Cooperative unveiled a clean coal technology project that provided an opportunity for the Milton R. Young station to significantly reduce its emissions. Minnkota's Young station is the first lignite-fired, cyclone boiler power plant in the country to use CyClean technology, which ADA provides through its joint venture Clean Coal Solutions, LLC. The Young station commenced use of the CyClean technology in its boilers in 2011 and continues to use the technology. CyClean combustion additives are designed to improve cyclone boiler operations and reduce power plant emissions. At the Young station, the additives have demonstrated the ability to reduce mercury emissions by 40% and NOx emissions by an additional 20% from previous levels. Mac McLennan, president and CEO of Minnkota Power, said, We are pleased that we have found a cost-effective technology that can help us meet current and future regulatory requirements and further reduce our power plant emissions. This technology also provides us with another operational tool to deal with the variables of lignite coal

and boiler conditions. We are continuing to use and evaluate the longer-term use of CyClean® additives. The CyClean additives are comprised of two parts. One comes in a granular form and the other in a liquid. The additives are applied directly onto the coal as it enters the Young station facility on conveyor belts.

Coyote Creek Mining And Coyote Station Reach Lignite Coal Supply Agreement

Oct 15, 2012

The Coyote station owners entered into an agreement with Coyote Creek Mining Company, LLC, a subsidiary of The North American Coal Corporation, for lignite coal supply to the station beginning May 2016. Otter Tail Power Company is the operating agent of the Beulah, North Dakota, power plant that it owns jointly with Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., NorthWestern Energy, and Northern Municipal Power Agency (NMPA). Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc., acts as agent and representative for NMPA. Under a development agreement signed earlier 2012, Coyote Creek Mining has taken preliminary steps to open a new mine near the 427 MW plant. According to David Straley, North American Coal's manager of public affairs, the company is confident the mine will be ready in 2016. Straley said, North American Coal is proud to be expanding our operations in North Dakota with the Coyote Station owners, he said. Next year is our 100th anniversary, and we've been mining lignite in North Dakota continuously for 55 years. That's a lot of experience. We've been recognized in our industry for leadership, environmental compliance, and safety. We look forward to mining and delivering high-quality lignite safely and reliably to Coyote Station. Jan Rudolf, Otter Tail Power's vice president of energy supply, said that, because the existing 35-year contract expires in 2016, the owners in 2010 issued a request for proposals for coal supply to North Dakota lignite providers. The owners also considered western subbituminous coal. Rudolf said, We reviewed options to provide the lowest-cost and most reliable electricity to our customers. After considering plant performance, the cost of capital investments that may be required for future environmental compliance, and delivered coal prices, our final decision was to negotiate a lignite coal supply agreement with North American Coal.

USDA Announces Funding Of Around \$1.95 Billion To Improve Electric Service In Rural Communities Across US

Oct 11, 2012

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced funding to modernize and improve the efficiency of rural electric generation and transmission systems. The announcement includes additional support of \$134m in smart grid technologies. The \$1.95 billion in loan guarantees announced are provided by USDA Rural Development's Rural Utilities Service. The funding helps electric utilities upgrade, expand, maintain and replace rural America's electric infrastructure. The agency also funds energy conservation and renewable energy projects. Tom Vilsack, agriculture secretary at USDA, said, USDA and the Obama administration continue to make key investments in rural electric cooperatives that will modernize service and improve reliability for rural businesses and residential customer. Today's announcement also includes funding that will enable rural electric cooperatives and utilities to adopt smart grid technologies in their operation as part of the ongoing efforts to modernize rural America's electric grid. The following is a list of rural utilities that will receive USDA funding, which is contingent upon the recipient meeting the terms of the loan agreement. South Alabama Electric Cooperative will receive \$17,800,000 that will be used to build and improve 144 miles of distribution line and make other system improvements. The loan guarantee includes \$125,000 in smart grid projects. Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation will receive \$245,000,000 that will be used to acquire Hot Spring Generating Facility, a 660 MW natural gas-

fired, combined-cycle electric generating plant. The funding also covers communities in Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas. Kirkwood Meadows Public Utility District will receive \$50,000,000 that will be used to build or improve 40 miles of distribution and transmission line and make other system improvements in California. The loan guarantee includes \$200,000 in smart grid projects. Eagle Valley Clean Energy, LLC will receive \$40,000,000 that will be used to partially finance a renewable generating plant with a capacity of 11.5 MW in Colorado. The plant will utilize wood biomass for fuel. Green Energy Team, LLC will receive \$72,883,000 that will be used to partially finance a renewable generating plant with a capacity of 7.5 MW in Hawaii. The plant will utilize wood biomass for fuel. Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc. will receive \$10,000,000 that will be used to build and improve 106 miles of distribution line and make other system improvements. The loan guarantee includes \$135,000 in smart grid projects and \$2,043,387 for storm damage projects. SMECO Solar, LLC will receive \$14,565,000 that will be used to finance the construction of the Herbert Farm Solar Project, a 5.5 MW renewable solar-powered generating facility in Maryland. Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative, Inc. will receive \$87,160,000 that will be used to build 37 miles of transmission line and make other system improvements. Federated Rural Electric Association will receive \$6,700,000 that will be used to build and improve 76 miles of distribution line and make other system improvements in Minnesota and Iowa. The loan guarantee includes \$1,542,000 in smart grid projects. South Mississippi Electric Power Association will also receive \$480,000,000 that will be used to finance a 15% share of the Kemper County Integrated Gasification combined cycle project. South Mississippi Electric Power Association will receive \$90,863,000 that will be used to build seven miles of transmission line and four new substations and make communications upgrades. The loan amount includes \$67,228,000 in smart grid projects. KAMO Electric Cooperative, Inc. will receive \$154,600,000 that will be used to finance 116 miles of new transmission line, two substations and make other system improvements in Missouri and Oklahoma. The loan amount includes \$32,120,980 in smart grid projects. KBR Rural Public Power District will receive \$13,314,000 that will be used to build and improve 129 miles of distribution line and nine miles of transmission line, and make other system improvements in Nebraska. The loan amount includes \$791,475 in smart grid projects. Otero County Electric Cooperative, Inc. will receive \$30,886,000 that will be used to build and improve 200 miles of distribution line and 10 miles of transmission line, and make other system improvements in New Mexico. The loan amount includes \$345,000 in smart grid projects. Central Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. will receive \$44,973,000 that will be used to build and improve 589 miles of distribution line and 30 miles of transmission line, and make other system improvements in New Mexico. Delaware County Electric Cooperative, Inc. will receive \$5,000,000 that will be used to build and improve 53 miles of distribution line, two substations and make other system improvements in New York. The loan amount includes \$50,660 in smart grid projects. Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. will receive \$308,700,000 that will be used to build 260 miles of transmission line in North Dakota and Minnesota. The loan amount includes \$2,800,000 in smart grid projects. Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative will receive \$54,000,000 that will be used to build and improve 520 miles of distribution line and make other system improvements in North Dakota and Montana. The loan amount includes \$659,800 in smart grid projects. Firelands Electric Cooperative, Inc. will receive \$4,800,000 that will be used to build and improve 43 miles of distribution line, and make other system improvements in Ohio. The loan amount includes \$1,122,000 in smart grid projects. Midwest Electric Cooperative, Inc. will receive \$9,000,000 that will be used to build and improve 115 miles of distribution line, and make other system improvements in Ohio. The loan amount includes \$288,900 in smart grid projects. San Patricio Electric Cooperative, Inc. will receive \$16,853,000 that will be used to build and improve 202 miles of distribution line, and make other system improvements in Texas. The loan amount includes \$2,157,754 in smart grid projects. East Texas Electric Cooperative, Inc. will receive \$151,000,000 that will be used to finance a 50 MW renewable

generating plant. The plant will use wood biomass for fuel. Orcas Power and Light Cooperative will receive \$38,402,000 that will be used to build and improve 109 miles of distribution line, and make other system improvements in Washington. The loan amount includes \$24,296,000 in smart grid projects. Wyrulec Company will receive \$4,887,000 that will be used to build and improve 85 miles of distribution line, and make other system improvements in Wyoming and Nebraska. The loan amount includes \$155,700 in smart grid projects.

Otter Tail Power Energizes Western Segment Of New Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230kV Transmission Line

Sep 17, 2012

Otter Tail Power Company, the company that led construction of the CapX2020 project, announced that the western segment of the new Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230kV transmission line was energized and placed in service. The eastern segment of the line was energized in August 2012. The 70-mile line connects the Wilton substation near Bemidji and the Boswell substation near Grand Rapids. Rod Scheel, vice president, asset management, Otter Tail Power, said, "Today's successful commissioning directly benefits people in north central Minnesota by providing long-term reliable electric service." Significant high-voltage transmission capacity had not been added to north central Minnesota for more than 30 years. Scheel said, "Besides enhancing reliability, the 230 kilovolt line provides additional capacity to serve the area's growing demand for electricity and wind energy development in Western Minnesota and the Dakotas. And when you look at all the CapX2020 projects being built, you see that this multi-utility initiative is implementing a comprehensive plan that will help keep electric service to customers in the Upper Midwest among the most affordable and reliable in the nation." Partners in the project include Otter Tail Power and Minnesota Power, which will each operate a segment of the line, Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. and Great River Energy, which will each maintain a segment of the line, and Xcel Energy, Inc.

EPA Approves North Dakota's State Implementation Plan For Milton R. Young Station

Mar 07, 2012

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved North Dakota's State Implementation Plan (SIP) regarding nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions for Units 1 and 2 at Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.'s (Minnkota Power's) Milton R. Young station (MRYS). This final action regarding regional haze was released by the EPA on March 2, 2012. It means that the EPA approved that portion of the state of North Dakota's SIP that allows over-fired air (OFA)+selective non-catalytic reduction (SNCR) technology to be used for NOx reduction at the MRYS in complying with the Regional Haze Rule. The EPA also approved the SIP for Basin Electric Power Cooperative's (Basin Electric's) Leland Olds station (LOS) Unit 2. However, the EPA's action does require two plants to make changes. A partial Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) means Basin Electric's Antelope Valley station (AVS) must install low-NOx burners and Great River Energy's Coal Creek station must install SNCR. Both of those use pulverized coal-fired boilers. The MRYS and LOS Unit 2 have cyclone-fired boilers. In July 2011, the EPA issued a proposed FIP that would have required the MRYS and LOS Unit 2 to install Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) technology. SCRs are much more expensive than OFA+SNCR technology and have not proven to work on cyclone-fired boilers using North Dakota lignite coal. Mac McLennan, president and CEO of Minnkota Power, said, We are pleased the EPA recognized the state of North Dakota properly identified the right technology for our Young Station. A number of people have worked hard on this issue for many years.

This is a victory for the coexistence of clean, clear air and affordable energy. The EPA and other agencies have been monitoring visibility in national parks and wilderness areas since 1988. In 1999, the EPA announced a major effort to improve air quality in national parks and wilderness areas. The Regional Haze Rule calls for state and federal agencies to work together to improve visibility in 156 national parks and wilderness areas, including Theodore Roosevelt National Park. A December 2011 ruling weighed heavily in the EPA's decision to approve the SIP for the MRYS and LOS Unit 2. In that case, U.S. District Court judge, Daniel L. Hovland, ruled in favor of the state of North Dakota in a dispute resolution process under the consent decree for what is Best Available Control Technology (BACT) for NO_x at the MRYS. The judge denied both the EPA's motion to stay the process until regional haze is settled and the motion for dispute resolution that would have required the state of North Dakota to redo the BACT determination. Hovland ruled that the state's finding that BACT for NO_x at the MRYS was SNCR - and not SCR - was not unreasonable nor was it arbitrary and capricious. EPA said, In light of the court's decision and the views we have expressed in our BART (Best Available Retrofit Technology) guidelines on the relationship of BACT to BART, we have concluded that it would be inappropriate to proceed with our proposed disapproval of SNCR as BART and our proposed FIP to impose SCR at MRYS 1 and 2 and LOS 2. While LOS was not the subject of the BACT determination, the same reasoning that applies to MRYS 1 and 2 also applies to LOS 2. It is the same type of boiler burning North Dakota lignite coal, and North Dakota's views regarding technical infeasibility that the U.S. District Court upheld in the MRYS BACT case apply to it as well. Rather than a more costly federal plan (\$500m for Minnkota Power alone), the agreement will provide North Dakota with flexibility to implement sensible and cost-effective standards for improving visibility in selected areas of the state. The announcement followed meetings held between the delegation and EPA officials, including a meeting with Lisa Jackson, administrator of EPA, in December 2011. The delegation remained committed to affirming the state of North Dakota's ability to manage its own implementation plan, citing the state's longstanding commitment to meeting all Clean Air Act National Ambient Air Quality Standards, and significant progress the state has already made in reducing haze in the region.

North Dakota PSC Issues Notice Of Filing And Hearings On Minnkota Power's Application For Route Permit For 45kV Transmission Line

Jan 18, 2012

The North Dakota Public Service Commission (North Dakota PSC) issued a notice of filing and notice of hearings on an application filed by Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (Minnkota Power) for the waiver request, corridor modification and route permit for a 345kV transmission line. Three separate public hearings will be held with each covering an overview of the project, but focusing on specific portions of the project in the specific areas of each hearing. A public hearing on the application will be held: February 22, 2012, 9:00am at Memorial Hall, 805 Main Avenue, Washburn, North Dakota 58577. This hearing will focus primarily on portions of the project in Burleigh, McLean, Oliver and western Sheridan counties. February 27, 2012, 9:00am in the Baker Courtroom at the UND School of Law, 215 Centennial Drive Stop 9003, Grand Forks, North Dakota 58201. This hearing will focus primarily on portions of the project in Grand Forks, Nelson and Steele counties. March 1, 2012, 9:00am at the Chieftain Conference Center Tepee Room, 60 4th Avenue S, Carrington, North Dakota 58204. This hearing will focus primarily on portions of the project in Eddy, Foster, Griggs, eastern Sheridan and Wells counties. The issues to be considered are: Will the location, construction, and operation of the proposed facilities produce minimal adverse effects on the environment and upon the welfare of the citizens of North Dakota Are the proposed facilities compatible with the environmental preservation and the efficient use of resources Will the

proposed facility locations minimize adverse human and environmental impact while ensuring continuing system reliability and integrity and ensuring that energy needs are met and fulfilled in an orderly and timely fashion and Is it appropriate for the North Dakota PSC to approve a 1,000ft-wide corridor as requested in the application. On September 7, 2011 the North Dakota PSC issued Corridor Certificate No. 121 to Minnkota Power designating a transmission facility corridor for approximately 260 miles of 345kV transmission line and associated facilities to be constructed from the Center substation near Center, North Dakota to the Prairie substation near Grand Forks, North Dakota. On December 2, 2011 Minnkota Power filed applications for a modification to the designated corridor, a waiver of procedures and time schedules, and a transmission facility route to be designated within the modified corridor. Minnkota Power requested the North Dakota PSC waive requirements under N.D.C.C. chapter 49-22 that separate hearings be held concerning the waiver request, the corridor modification and the route permit.

USDA Announces Funding To Improve Rural Electric Service

Oct 13, 2011

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced funding for rural electric cooperative utilities to improve distribution systems and smart grid technologies in 27 states, as part of the Obama administration's continued focus on investments in infrastructure that create rural jobs. The announcement was made on the secretary's behalf by Dallas Tonsager, agriculture under secretary for rural development, during a speech to the National Rural Electric Association regional meeting in Denver, where he also stressed the importance of the American Jobs Act to spur job creation throughout the country. Tom Vilsack, USDA's secretary, said, "This investment in the electric grid will help address the growing need for electric service nationwide and spur job creation by building out rural infrastructure," Vilsack said. "Smart grid technology can help better manage power use, provide rate stability for businesses and create the climate for job growth in rural America." Over \$2.1 billion in loans are provided by USDA's Rural Utilities Service, a Rural Development Agency, to help rural electric utilities build and upgrade rural America's electric infrastructure. These projects will fund over \$40m in smart grid technologies and will build or improve nearly 6,000 miles of line. Funding for distribution cooperatives, which provide power to consumers, will benefit over 38,000 rural businesses and residents. Included in the funding are three loans for Colorado projects that will help keep electricity reliable and affordable for rural communities. Gunnison County Electric Association will receive over \$7m to build or improve nearly 60 miles of line over \$1m of those funds will go to smart grid technology. A loan of over \$35m to Highline Electric Association will build or improve over 280 miles of line and includes over \$2m for smart grid technology. Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc, owned by 44 distribution cooperatives, will build or improve over 150 miles of transmission line, upgrade substations and invest over \$9m in smart grid technology with a total of \$132m in loan funds. In Virginia, a loan of \$90m to Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative will be used to build a 49.9 MW woody biomass generation facility. The project is projected to cover approximately 6% of the cooperative's future power needs for the years 2014 through 2030. In Georgia, a loan of almost \$30m to Amicalola Electric Membership Corporation will be used to build or improve over 250 miles of transmission line. The loan amount includes \$9,402,000 in smart grid projects, which help utilities better manage electricity needs and improve operational efficiencies. These investments also help rural utilities improve their delivery and storage of renewable energy to generate electricity. Funding is contingent upon the recipient meeting the terms of the loan agreement.

RUS, CNF, USACE And LLBO Issue Final EIS For Proposed Bemidji To Grand Rapids, Minnesota 230kV Transmission Line Project In US

Sep 15, 2010

The Federal Rural Utilities Service (RUS), the US Forest Service Chippewa National Forest (CNF), the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Division of Resource Management (LLBO) have issued a final environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Bemidji to Grand Rapids, Minnesota 230kV transmission line project (project) in Minnesota. The final EIS was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (U.S.C. 4231 et seq.) in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508), and RUS regulations (7 CFR 1794). To minimize duplication of effort pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.2, RUS prepared the final EIS jointly with the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security (OES) in compliance with federal responsibilities under NEPA and other federal statutes and regulations, and state responsibilities under the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act and the Minnesota Power Plant Siting Act. RUS is the lead federal agency as defined at 40 CFR 1501.5, and CNF and USACE are cooperating agencies. LLBO accepted an invitation to participate as a cooperating agency. The purpose of the final EIS is to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of and alternatives to the application of Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (Minnkota) for RUS financing to construct a 230kV transmission line between the Wilton substation near Bemidji, Minnesota and the Boswell substation near Grand Rapids, Minnesota, which will cross portions of Beltrami, Hubbard, Itasca, and Cass counties. Minnkota also proposes to modify the Wilton and Boswell substations and construct a new 115kV breaker station at Nary Junction, Minnesota. In addition, Minnkota proposes to upgrade an existing or construct a new substation in the Cass Lake, Minnesota area, depending on the route alternative selected for the project. The project is being jointly developed by Minnkota, Otter Tail Power Company, and Minnesota Power.

Minnkota Power Reports Operating Revenues Of \$212.53 Million In 2009

Feb 26, 2010

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (Minnkota Power) has reported total operating revenues of \$212.53 million for the year 2009, compared with the total operating revenues of \$200.68 million in the previous year. It has also reported administrative and general expenses of \$9.21 million for the year 2009, compared with the administrative and general expenses of \$8.63 million in the previous year. Revenues Energy sales revenue to Class B, C and D members and others totaled \$47.5 million, which is a decrease of \$8.8 million from 2008. Market prices for surplus sales decreased by around 50% due to reduced load in the Midwest as a result of the current recession. Other electric revenue totaled \$5.9 million in 2009, up \$.2 million from 2008. The major items included in this category are renewable energy credits related to Minnkota's purchased power wind contracts and the administrative fee received from Square Butte Electric Cooperative. Nonoperating income in 2009 totaled \$3 million, up \$.4 million from 2008. Nonoperating income includes coal royalties received from Square Butte and capital credit allocations, primarily from CoBank. Expenses Expenses totaled \$212.9 million in 2009, which is up \$10.7 million from 2008. The largest expense items are for generation expenses of Young 1 and purchased power from Young 2, Coyote, Western Area Power Administration, wind farms and other area utilities. These totaled \$174.1 million, which is an increase of \$9.5 million from 2008. The increase was primarily related to new wind energy purchases in 2009, additional Young 1 expenses for the scheduled sevenweek plant overhaul in 2009 and additional purchase power costs from Young 2 arising from Minnkota exercising its option to increase its share of the output of Young 2 from around 44.8% to 50% on January 1, 2009. Transmission and substation expenses totaled \$17.2 million in 2009 compared to \$17 million in

2008. Fixed costs, which include interest and depreciation, totaled \$12.4 million in 2009 compared to \$12 million in 2008. Additional borrowing for construction projects has led to increased interest and depreciation costs. Net Margins Margins for 2009 were \$2.6 million. The total margin consisted of an operating loss of \$.4 million and a nonoperating margin of \$3 million. Patronage Capital Total patronage capital was \$14.9 million at December 31, 2009. Th is includes \$19.7 million of capital credits previously assigned and \$4.8 million in accumulated unassigned operating losses that will be off set by operating margins in future years. The nonoperating margin of \$3 million will be retained as appropriated margins to be used for future contingencies. Total equity at December 31, 2009, is \$78.7 million, 16.5% of total assets.

NextEra Energy, Otter Tail Power And Minnkota Power To Dedicate 196.5 MW AWEC In North Dakota

Jun 17, 2009

NextEra Energy Resources LLC (NextEra Energy), Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Minnkota Power Cooperative (Minnkota Power) will dedicate 196.5 MW Ashtabula Wind Energy Center (AWEC) in Barnes county in southeastern North Dakota. Otter Tail Power owns 32 of the AWEC's 131 turbines, or 48 MW. NextEra Energy owns the remainder of the turbines and operates the entire wind farm. All of the remaining output from the facility is sold to Minnkota Power under a long-term contract. More than 200 local and regional guests joined Governor Hoeven and company officials at the site near Valley City to celebrate the commercial operation of the 196.5 megawatt (MW) Ashtabula Wind Energy Center and the organizations that helped make the facility a reality. The Ashtabula Wind Energy Center is a good example of how we're building a multi-resource energy industry in North Dakota, partnering both traditional and renewable producers to create both economic and environmental benefits for all, said Governor Hoeven. Projects like this are helping us to grow and diversify our economy, create jobs and opportunities in rural communities, and strengthen our energy security. That benefits not only North Dakota, but also the entire nation. The Ashtabula Wind Energy Center is the latest example of NextEra Energy's ongoing commitment to expanding renewable energy projects in North Dakota and across the United States, said Mike O'Sullivan, senior vice president of development for NextEra Energy. In addition to generating clean, emission-free energy, this project will have an impact on the local economy through the jobs created, taxes paid, lease payments to landowners, and goods and services sourced locally. By the end of 2009, NextEra Energy Resources and its affiliates will have invested more than \$1 billion in wind energy in North Dakota. The AWEC is capable of generating enough electricity to power more than 50,000 homes. Initial operation of the 131 wind turbines at the wind farm began in December 2008. Chuck MacFarlane, president of Otter Tail Power Company said working with motivated and experienced partners made it possible to complete this project in a short time frame. That allowed us to use available tax incentives and meet our goal of building another cost-effective renewable energy project for our customers, said MacFarlane. Dave Loer, president and CEO of Minnkota Power Cooperative added, We are pleased to be purchasing energy from NextEra Energy and the Ashtabula Wind Energy Center. The energy from our 148.5 megawatts share of this wind energy center will bring Minnkota's wind energy to nearly 25% of our total energy requirements. Minnkota is a significant player in helping develop North Dakota's abundant wind resources. The three participating companies are not strangers to North Dakota nor to each other. This is the second major wind energy project they've partnered on in the state and their third project is underway. Minnkota Power Cooperative purchases 300 megawatts of wind energy generated in the state, including 288 MW from NextEra Energy.

Minnkota to construct transmission lines in North Dakota

Apr 29, 2009

Minnkota Power Cooperative plans to construct a \$2802 million, 345-kilovolt transmission line from Center to Grand Forks in North Dakota by late 2010. Michael Hennes, Minnkota's project manager said that the CGF Project is expected to boost the region's wind energy transmission capacity and thereby meet its projected growth. He also said that the cooperation has designated a six-mile study corridor. It will narrow the proposed corridor from six miles to 2,000 foot routes from Finley to Grand Forks. The new line will deliver coal-fired power from Milton R Young 2, a 455-megawatt coal-fired plant near Center. The existing 465-mile transmission line from Center to Duluth will be 100% owned by Minnkota. It also will allow Minnkota to designate an existing transmission line for wind energy. The company had studied the possibility of building a third power generation station at Center. Starting in 2013, Minnkota will begin receiving increasing allocations of Young 2 energy until the year 2026, when it will purchase 100% of the Young 2 output. The project will take around 18-24 months to obtain necessary permits and easements to begin construction. Construction work will take at least four-years to reach completion. In addition, the TransCanada Keystone Pipeline project, which is being built through eastern North Dakota, will add 60 megawatts of power to Minnkota's load. Each of four pump stations along its North Dakota route will require 15 megawatts.

Minnkota Power Cooperative To Construct 345 kV Transmission Line From Center North Dakota To Grand Forks In The US

Apr 29, 2009

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (Minnkota Power Cooperative) has announced its intentions to construct a \$280 million, 345 kV transmission line from Center North Dakota to Grand Forks in late 2010. Referred to as the CGF Project (Center to Grand Forks), the transmission line will convey coal-fired power from 455 megawatts (MW) coal-fired power station close to Center, North Dakota. The transmission line project entails a partnership with Minnesota Power located in Duluth. Minnkota Power Cooperative has assigned a study corridor stretching six miles from North Dakota Highway 200 across eastern and central North Dakota and goes northeast near Finley, North Dakota. Michael Hennes, CGF project manager for Minnkota Power Cooperative, stated that the project eliminates the necessity for a new power station. The CDR project is also expected to fulfill the company's expected growth and improve the area's capacity for wind energy transmission. Hennes said It is difficult to site viable large renewable generation projects near the load they serve and the CGF Project will free up the capacity on existing lines to carry renewable wind energy.

Minnkota Power Reports Total Operating Revenues Of \$200.7 Million In 2008

Feb 18, 2009

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (Minnkota Power) has reported total operating revenues of \$200.7 million for the year-end 2008, compared with the total operating revenues of \$173.2 million in the previous year. It has also reported net margin of \$1.1 million for the year-end 2008, compared with the net margin of \$1.3 million in the previous year. The largest operating revenue is from energy sales to the 11 class A member-owner distribution cooperatives. They amounted to \$138.6 million, or 69.1% of total operating revenues. Class A revenue shows an increase from 2007 of \$13.3 million primarily due to record energy sales of 3,460,206,340 kWh in 2008. There was also a 3.0% rate increase effective March 20, 2008. Energy sales revenue to class B, C and D members and others totaled \$56.4 million, which is an increase of \$12.8 million from 2007. Wind energy purchases from the new Langdon and Ashtabula Wind

Energy Centers resulted in more energy available to sell to class B, C and D members and others, especially in the summer months when class A member loads are lower. Other electric revenue totaled \$5.7 million in 2008, up \$1.4 million from 2007. The major items included in this category are wheeling, rents and the administrative fee received from Square Butte Electric Cooperative. For the years ending December 31, 2008 and 2007, Minnkota capitalized interest of \$430,501 and \$40,655, respectively. Non-operating income in 2008 totaled \$2.6 million, up \$.5 million from 2007. Total patronage capital was \$15.3 million at December 31, 2008. This includes \$19.7 million of capital credits previously assigned and \$4.4 million in accumulated unassigned operating losses that will be offset by future year's operating margins. Total equity at December 31, 2008, is \$75.3 million, 24.2% of total assets. Uncovered and undelivered coal inventory as of December 31, 2008 and 2007, was approximately \$2,387,982 and \$2,395,721, respectively, and is stated at FIFO (first-in, first out) cost. All other inventories are stated at average cost.

FPL, Otter Tail And Minnesota Power Dedicate Langdon Wind Energy Center

May 14, 2008

FPL Energy, LLC (FPL), Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail) and Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (Minnkota Power), have dedicated FPL's Langdon Wind Energy Center in Cavalier county, North Dakota. The Langdon Wind Energy Center is capable of generating enough electricity to power nearly 40,000 homes. Initial operation of the 106 wind turbines at the wind farm began in December 2007. Otter Tail Power Company owns 27 of the Langdon Wind Energy Center's 106 turbines, or 40.5 MW. North Dakota Governor John Hoeven was among the dignitaries who joined FPL Energy's Senior Vice President of Development Mike O'Sullivan, Otter Tail's President Chuck MacFarlane, Minnkota's President Dave Loer and more than 150 local and regional guests to celebrate the commercial operation of the Langdon Wind Energy Center and the organizations that helped bring the facility to North Dakota. Governor Hoeven stated, "Just a few years ago, North Dakota produced less than a megawatt of power from wind. Through our EmpowerND initiative, we have forged strong partnerships with outstanding companies like FPL Energy, Otter Tail, and Minnkota Power, as well as local communities. Today, we have built, or have in planning, nearly 1,800 megawatts of wind energy to serve North Dakota and the region. FPL Energy owns the remainder of the turbines and operates the entire wind farm. All of the remaining output from the facility is sold to Minnkota and Otter Tail Power Company under long-term contracts. FPL Energy plans to build an additional 40.5 megawatts this fall bringing the total size of the project to 199.5 megawatts. Chuck MacFarlane thanked all the stakeholders responsible for the success of this wind farm saying, "The Langdon Wind Energy Center hits the mark in terms of providing our customers with cost-effective, wind-generated electricity, and it might look easy because this region has so much wind. Certainly the area's rich wind resource is an important factor. However, a number of other variables--favorable tax incentives, a supportive regulatory process, willing landowners, reputable partners and dedicated employees--had to line up just right to make the project a success." Dave Loer added, "Minnkota is pleased to be a part of the Langdon Wind Energy Center. The location is ideal in many ways. This area offers robust wind, adequate transmission facilities and, most important welcoming landowners and an appreciative community."

Minnkota Signs Agreement With FPL For Electricity

Apr 10, 2008

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (Minnkota) has signed a contractual agreement with FPL Energy, LLC (FPL) to purchase more electricity from an addition to the Langdon Wind Energy Center in Cavalier county. The wind farm became operational December 31, 2007. The project will utilize 27 additional General Electric (GE) wind turbines, each having a nameplate capacity of 1.5. The expanded facility is expected to provide another 140 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) to Minnkota each year. By the end of 2008 when the expansion is completed, more than 13 percent of Minnkota's annual energy sales to the associated cooperatives and municipalities will be derived from the wind. We are pleased to purchase additional energy from the Langdon Wind Energy Center expansion, said David Loer, Minnkota president & CEO. Minnkota plans to add more than 300 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy to our generating portfolio during the next several years. The expansion at Langdon is part of that effort.

Feb 05, 2008

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail) notified the North Dakota Public Service Commission that, together with Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (Minnkota Power Cooperative), it intends to apply for a permit to build an around 60-mile-long 230-kilovolt line from Luverne, North Dakota, to the Maple River Substation near West Fargo. The utilities jointly are studying the feasibility of constructing a generation outlet, including high-voltage lines and substations, in the area. The outlet, which would be capable of carrying approximately 400 megawatts, is needed to accommodate electricity from proposed wind projects in Barnes, Steele, and Griggs counties. In comparison, the combined total generating capacity of all of North Dakota's wind facilities that are operational or near completion is 475 megawatts. The generation outlet and proposed wind projects require North Dakota Public Service Commission approval. Otter Tail Power Company and Minnkota Power Cooperative also intend to pursue opportunities to purchase power from, or have ownership in, the proposed wind projects. Subject to board of directors' approval of both utilities, and if successful and timely permits and wind developer agreements can be obtained, the utilities expect to begin constructing the generation outlet in June and to complete the project in the fourth quarter of 2008. In late February or early March 2008 the utilities will host public open houses for landowners and other interested people to discuss this generation outlet project. Both utilities serve customers and have transmission lines in the east central area of North Dakota. We've worked with Minnkota on numerous projects in the past, most recently on transmission and wind development at the Langdon Wind Energy Center, which is currently the largest wind farm in North Dakota, said Otter Tail President Chuck MacFarlane. Minnkota Power Cooperative President and CEO David Loer added, Working together provides increased economies of scale, thereby reducing costs for customers of both utilities. Minnkota and Otter Tail Power Company have a long and successful working relationship."

Note

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Classification

Subject: ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY (90%); ALTERNATIVE & RENEWABLE ENERGY (90%); NATURAL GAS & ELECTRIC UTILITIES (90%); COAL FIRED PLANTS (89%); EMISSIONS (89%); FOSSIL FUEL POWER PLANTS (89%); ENERGY & UTILITY CONSTRUCTION (89%); ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT (89%); UTILITIES INDUSTRY (89%); ELECTRICITY GENERATING CAPACITY (89%); ENERGY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS (78%)

Company: MINNKOTA POWER COOPERATIVE INC (91%%)

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